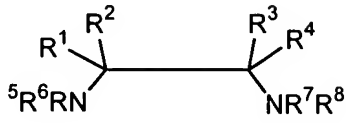
Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1. - 18. (Cancelled)

19. (New) A ligand of formula (I)



(I)

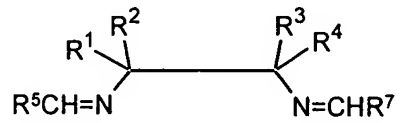
wherein $R^1$and R^3 are H; R^5, R^6, R^7 and R^8 are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and sulfonyl, provided that only one of these may be sulfonyl; and wherein R^2 and R^4 are aryl groups each comprising a substituent selected from the group consisting of Cl, Br, F, I, hydroxyl, alkoxy, carbonyl, carboxyl, anhydride, carbene, methacryl, epoxide, vinyl, nitrile, mercapto, amine, imine, amide, imide, and reaction products of any of these with a polyethylene glycol.

20. (New) A ligand according to claim 19 consisting of a 1,2-di-(meta-substituted phenyl) ethylene diamine.

21. (New) A ligand according to claim 19 wherein one of R^5, R^6, R^7 and R^8 is sulphonyl.

22. (New) A ligand according to claim 19 wherein the substituents on R^2 and R^4 are each one of said reaction products with a polyethylene glycol.

23. (New) A ligand of formula (II)



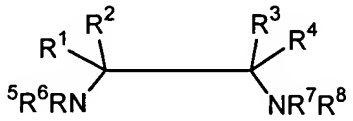
(II)

wherein $R^1$and R^3 are H; R^5 and R^7 are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, saturated or unsaturated C1-C10 alkyl, aryl, urethane, and sulfonyl, provided that only

one of these may be sulfonyl; and wherein R^2 and R^4 are aryl groups each comprising a substituent selected from the group consisting of Cl, Br, F, I, hydroxyl, alkoxy, carbonyl, carboxyl, anhydride, carbene, methacryl, epoxide, vinyl, nitrile, mercapto, amine, imine, amide, imide, and reaction products of any of these with a polyethylene glycol.

24. (New) A ligand according to claim 23 wherein the substituents on R^2 and R^4 are each one of said reaction products with a polyethylene glycol.

25. (New) An immobilized nitrogen-containing ligand comprising a reaction product of a ligand of formula (I)



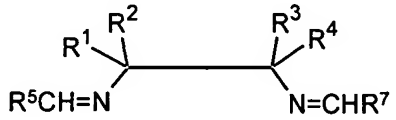
(I)

wherein $R^1$and R^3 are H; R^5, R^6, R^7 and R^8 are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and sulfonyl, provided that only one of these may be sulfonyl; and wherein R^2 and R^4 are aryl groups each comprising a substituent selected from the group consisting of Cl, Br, F, I, hydroxyl, alkoxy, carbonyl, carboxyl, anhydride, carbene, methacryl, epoxide, vinyl, nitrile, mercapto, amine, imine, amide, and imide;

with a solid support having a site capable of reacting with said substituent.

26. (New) A ligand according to claim 25 wherein the solid support is a polystyrene polymer or a polyethyleneglycol-functionalised polystyrene.

27. (New) An immobilized nitrogen-containing ligand comprising a reaction product of a ligand of formula (II)



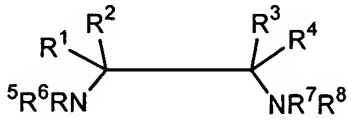
(II)

wherein $R^1$and R^3 are H; R^5 and R^7 are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, saturated or unsaturated C1-C10 alkyl, aryl, urethane, and sulfonyl, provided that only one of these may be sulfonyl; and wherein R^2 and R^4 are aryl groups each comprising a substituent selected from the group consisting of Cl, Br, F, I, hydroxyl, alkoxy, carbonyl, carboxyl, anhydride, carbene, methacryl, epoxide, vinyl, nitrile, mercapto, amine, imine, amide, and imide;

with a solid support having a site capable of reacting with said substituent.

28. (New) A ligand according to claim 27 wherein the solid support is a polystyrene polymer or a polyethyleneglycol-functionalised polystyrene.

29. (New) A method for preparing a ligand of formula (I)



(I)

wherein $R^1$and R^3 are H; R^5, R^6, R^7 and R^8 are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and sulfonyl, provided that only one of these may be sulfonyl; and wherein R^2 and R^4 are aryl groups each comprising a substituent selected from the group consisting of Cl, Br, F, I, hydroxyl, alkoxy, carbonyl, carboxyl, anhydride, carbene, methacryl, epoxide, vinyl, nitrile, mercapto, amine, imine, amide, and imide;

comprising the steps of:

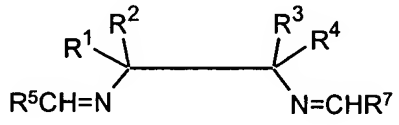
(a) performing a benzoin condensation on a functionalised benzaldehyde to give a functionalised benzoin;

(b) reducing the functionalised benzoin by asymmetric hydrogen transfer hydrogenation using a Ru catalyst to give a functionalised hydrobenzoin; and

(c) transforming the functionalised hydrobenzoin via a diazide into a functionalised 1,2-diarylamine.

30. (New) A method according to claim 29 wherein the functionalized benzaldehyde is 3-bromobenzaldehyde or 3-benzyloxybenzaldehyde.

31. (New) A method for preparing a ligand of formula (II)



(II)

wherein $R^1$and R^3 are H; R^5 and R^7 are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, saturated or unsaturated C1-C10 alkyl, aryl, urethane, and sulfonyl, provided that only one of these may be sulfonyl; and wherein R^2 and R^4 are aryl groups each comprising a substituent selected from the group consisting of Cl, Br, F, I, hydroxyl, alkoxy, carbonyl, carboxyl, anhydride, carbene, methacryl, epoxide, vinyl, nitrile, mercapto, amine, imine, amide, and imide;

comprising the steps of:

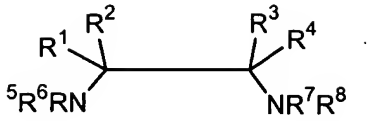
(a) performing a benzoin condensation on a functionalised benzaldehyde to give a functionalised benzoin;

(b) reducing the functionalised benzoin by asymmetric hydrogen transfer hydrogenation using a Ru catalyst to give a functionalised hydrobenzoin; and

(c) transforming the functionalised hydrobenzoin via a diazide into a functionalised 1,2-diarylamine.

32. (New) A method according to claim 31 wherein the functionalized benzaldehyde is 3-bromobenzaldehyde or 3-benzyloxybenzaldehyde.

33. (New) A method for preparing an immobilized nitrogen-containing ligand, the method comprising contacting a ligand of formula (I)



(I)

wherein $R^1$and R^3 are H; R^5, R^6, R^7 and R^8 are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and sulfonyl, provided that only one of these may be sulfonyl; and wherein R^2 and R^4 are aryl groups each comprising a substituent selected from the group consisting of Cl, Br, F, I, hydroxyl, alkoxy, carbonyl, carboxyl, anhydride, carbene, methacryl, epoxide, vinyl, nitrile, mercapto, amine, imine, amide, and imide;

with a solid support having a site capable of reacting with said substituent to form the immobilised nitrogen-containing ligand.

34. (New) A method for preparing an immobilized nitrogen-containing ligand, the method comprising contacting a ligand of formula (II)

(II)

wherein $R^1$and R^3 are H; R^5 and R^7 are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, saturated or unsaturated C1-C10 alkyl, aryl, urethane, and sulfonyl, provided that only one of these may be sulfonyl; and wherein R^2 and R^4 are aryl groups each comprising a substituent selected from the group consisting of Cl, Br, F, I, hydroxyl, alkoxy, carbonyl, carboxyl, anhydride, carbene, methacryl, epoxide, vinyl, nitrile, mercapto, amine, imine, amide, and imide;

with a solid support having a site capable of reacting with said substituent to form the immobilised nitrogen-containing ligand.